

# Assess and Build Relationships with Families

Use this worksheet to track your current knowledge about each student's family.

<b>Student Name</b>	<b>Family Members and Caring Adults</b>  Who is in the family (Elders, aunts, cousins); who is the "go-to" for school partnership (parent, uncle, grandparent); other caring adults the child is close to (neighbor, Elders)	<b>Family Activities</b>  What the family likes to do together (subsistence, games, watch movies, music)	<b>Family Language, Values, and Skills</b>  Important values, beliefs, skills the family has taught their child and language spoken at home	<b>Family Supports and Teaching</b>  Ways the family supports, guides, teaches child at home	<b>My Current Knowledge</b>  Rating of 1-5.  1 = little knowledge  5 = a lot of knowledge

Review your notes:

- What information are you missing for each family? Where are your gaps in knowledge?
- What patterns do you notice? Which families have you not yet connected with?
- How might you reach out to families?
- Who else might help you gather information in order to build relationships with families?



## Additional Questions for Families

(Pick one or two from each area.)

### Relationship Building

- What values and principles do you hold as a family when it comes to education?
- What does your child enjoy at school and outside of school?
- What are some of your favorite things about your child?
- What words would you use to describe your child?
- What was your experience like in this grade? How do you remember that year of school?
- What are your fears or concerns about your child in this year of school?
- How and when would you like me to be in touch with you this year? What do you hope I'll communicate with you about?

### Cultural Responsiveness

- What skills, traditions, customs or artifacts would you like to share with our class?
- Is there anything you'd like to tell me about your family's cultures, beliefs or religion?
- What languages are spoken at home? Do you have a preferred language for oral and written communications?

### Link to Learning

- Share some concrete examples of the child's learning (e.g., work samples, photographs, etc.); discuss the child's areas of strength, growth, and progress over time.
- Ask the parent what he/she notices about the child's learning and development at home.
  - What have you observed about your child?
  - Where do you think your child needs to grow this year?

### Skills and Confidence

- What do you see as your child's greatest strengths or skills? Tell me about a time when you saw your child demonstrating these skills.
- Next June, what do you hope your child says about his/her experience in school this year? What's the story you hope he/she will tell?
- What goals do you have for your child and where you would like them to be, by the end of the school year?
- Share strategies that you are using to support the child's learning in the classroom.
- Share concrete strategies that the parent can use to extend the child's learning at home.

### Co-Regulation

- What are some of your child's strengths or favorite things to do (For example: drawing, reading stories, playing pretend, playing outside)?
- Does your child have any dislikes we should know about (For example: taking naps, specific foods)?
- Please describe any physical, emotional, behavioral, or learning issues your child may have that you think we should know about so that we can support her or him throughout the year.
- Is there anything else about your family that you think we should know so that we can serve you and your child effectively?
- Is there anything else you can tell me about your child that you think would help me support his/her learning?